



'I'm so much happier now than I was 20 years ago'

Connie Chiome, 57, lives in Balfour Park. She has four grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Living in Greece was one of the most exciting times in my life. *Sola, Sola*, the first show I did, played in Israel and Greece. When its run ended, I stayed on in Greece for nine months, performing cabaret shows. It was great fun!

I have so many ambitions. One is to tell the stories of Africa, another is to travel more. I've been to many well-known cities like London, Paris and New York, but I'd like to visit exotic places that are off the beaten track, like the Amazon.

I focus on being healthy. I watch what I eat and I go to gym, but sometimes I forget about my diet and I eat what I want. Life's too short to live on carrot sticks!

I'm lucky because I have good genes. My mother is 87 and very active and healthy. I have more grey hair than she has!

Tell your younger self? Go back to school and gain as much knowledge as you can. And don't allow yourself to be pressured by anyone around you.

Connie is in Rhythm City on e.tv now.

'I've learnt how to make the best of myself – I like the way I look now'

Style guru Chata Romano, 44, is married to Avri. They divide their time between Johannesburg and Sydney.

I've always instinctively known what makes people look good. As a teenager I'd charge my friends' mothers R10 for a day consultation, going through their wardrobes and advising what suited them and what they should get rid of.

When I was 20, image consulting as a career didn't exist. I joined Wooltru, but I wanted my own business. After a few banks turned down my business plan, my husband handed me all the money he'd been saving for a house to start a business.

My business is a success because I persevered and never gave up. I marketed myself, constantly phoning newspapers and magazines, and it paid off.

I can never have plastic surgery on my knees, even though I don't like them. I've been dying to have my knees done but I can't because I'm always raising my skirts at workshops to show clients how I disguise them – they've become a business asset!

Apart from my knees, I like the way I look. I get a lot of exercise running around all day, I fast one day a week and I take supplements.

I'm busy launching Chata Clothing, classic styles for women aged 26 to 55; the secret is in the way you wear it. The range will be sold through our consultants at first, but my dream is to open Chata Romano stores next year.

Tell your younger self? If you believe in yourself, truly believe in yourself, you can make it happen!

Visit www.chataromano.com



PHOTOGRAPH OF CHATA: BROOKE FASANI FROM SHAPE SHIFTERS; CHATA'S HAIR: ANNE LINE BLACK FROM BRUSHSTROKES; CHATA'S MAKE-UP: JULIE GRESSE FROM JANE IREDALE MINERAL MAKEUP; CHATA'S STYLING: LEANNE BONTHOUS FROM INFIDELS; CHATA WEARS: DRESS, ROSEWERTH; SHOES, SLATE; EARRINGS, LULU BELLE; PHOTOGRAPH OF CONNIE: STEVE KARALLIS FROM GLAMOUR MECHANICS; CONNIE'S HAIR & MAKE-UP: KIM WINTERS/SCALE; CONNIE'S STYLING: CLEO JUNIUS; CONNIE WEARS: TOP, PANTS, BOTH: FOSCHINI; ACCESSORIES: BURY IN THE DUST